



Monday, September 13th, 2021

Workshop Meeting Start @ 6:00 PM / Voting Meeting Start @ 7:00 PM

Call Meeting to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call of Council

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LISTED MOTIONS

Mr. Robert Davidoff, (26 Lincoln Avenue) inquired about the Beechwood Avenue Sidewalk Replacement Project. Councilperson D’Loss replied that this is a project that the Borough submitted a grant through the Char-West COG for the Community Development Grant Block Program (CDBG) to repair the sidewalk along Beechwood Avenue from Williams Way to Home Street. Funds were received through this application, but it would not be enough to complete the entire portion of sidewalk. A future application will be submitted to request the funds for the remainder.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Councilperson Boyd – Present; Councilperson DiPietro – Present; Councilperson Freshwater – Not Present; Councilperson Popichak – Present; Councilperson D’Loss – Present; Council President Demko – Present; Mayor Riley – Not Present

Administration (Councilperson Freshwater – Read by Councilperson DiPietro)

**MOTION to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting on August 9th, 2021.
Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to accept the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation Report for the Borough of Carnegie Uniform and Non-Uniform fund as submitted by the Borough Manager.
Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION to amend the Crossing Guard daily rate from \$30.00 per day to \$33.00 per day (with no other benefits) effective Monday, September 13, 2021. Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to appoint the following individuals to the Carnegie Borough Shade Tree Commission under the following terms:

| Appointee | Expiration Date |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Karyn Rok | 12/31/2021 |
| Robert Podurgiel | 6/30/2022 |
| Marlene Smith-Pendleton | 6/30/2023 |
| Bill Moldovan | 6/30/2023 |
| Nathan Kesneck | 9/14/2024 |
| Gina Thornberg | 9/14/2024 |
| Chris James | 9/14/2024 |

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

Finance (Councilperson Boyd)

MOTION to approve the September 2021 Bill List and Bill List Addendum.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to authorize payment to Play and Park Structures (CoStars Vendor) in the amount of \$90,181.56 for the 7th Avenue Playground Renovation Grant Project received through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP).

A. Borough Funds Received (\$87,500.00) / Borough Match (\$13,125.00 – 15%)

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to accept the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation Grant funding to support the 7th Avenue Park Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$15,000.00. (Grant ID # 21088)

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

COMMENT: Councilperson Boyd noted that this motion will assist in covering the match for the GTRP project being completed at 7th Avenue Park, which will provide a savings to the Borough General Fund.

Public Works (Councilperson D’Loss)

MOTION to authorize KLH Engineers to prepare bid documentation for the CDBG Year 47 Grant Application for the Beechwood Avenue Sidewalk Replacement Project (Project Amount - \$23,352.00). Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit the Carlynton Youth Soccer Association to use the Carnegie Park All Purpose Field from August 23, 2021, through November 7, 2021, on Monday through Friday (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.), Saturday (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), and Sunday (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

Public Safety (Councilperson Popichak)

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2021 – 18, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the adoption of a mutual aid agreement for the delegation of powers set forth in a mutual aid agreement for law enforcement services. Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

Code Enforcement and Community Development (Councilperson DiPietro)

Committee Reports

Administration – Nothing for this evening.

Finance – It is that time of year when discussions are beginning for the 2022 Borough budget. 2022 year will be an interesting year for the municipality due to the opportunity to utilize funds provided to the Borough through the American Rescue Plan Act (Federal Program), which is just more than \$800,000.00. The Borough Manager and I will be attending a virtual meeting on September 23, 2021, through the Local Government Academy to learn more about the rules and regulations for this program and to see how these funds can be utilized and what

the auditing requirements will be. Borough Council has started the conversation on how to possibly use this funding and the initial consensus at this point is to consider infrastructure updates along Main Street (ex. update and replace street lighting, sidewalks, paving, etc.).

Also, the municipality recently addressed the current bond issue, which paid off the previous bond and allowed the Borough to receive a refund and retain the current amortization schedule for pay off. Timing was of the essence with this process as it was an 8-to-9-month process to prepare the new bond and in doing so timing turned out in the Borough's favor. Initial estimates of what would be refunded were in the \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 range but at the time when the Bond went to the market the municipality was able to receive a refund that was a little over \$100,000.00. This will be another 10-year series of bonds. These funds will be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund, and we will be seeing how to coordinate these funds with those received through the ARPA program. The goal is to spend the received money wisely through municipal projects while following the guidelines of spending the federal funding.

Code Enforcement and Community Development – Nothing for this evening.

Public Works - The 2021 paving program is running behind schedule due to a very rainy August. Our DPW was mostly occupied with storm damage, downed trees, and flooding. Our contractor has completed construction of most of the handicapped ramps. DPW needs to repair manholes and then the contractor can begin paving.

Upgrades to 7th Ave Park is mostly complete. The playground equipment is installed. We still are going to address storm water issues from the park; that will include a rain garden and drainage. A major storm water project on Cabbage will be put out for bid in December, with construction to begin in March.

The Borough requested \$115,000 from state grants to demolish blighted properties. We received only \$30,000, which is enough to do two buildings.

The Borough has been granted \$23,352 to repair sidewalks on Beechwood Ave across from the library. Unfortunately, that is not enough to repair the entire length of sidewalk from the bottom of the hill to the top, so we will pave as much as we can and save the remainder for next year.

The Borough has experienced a lot of stormwater damage this year in Carnegie that impacted both private residences and commercial properties. This coming Friday (September 17) is the 17th anniversary of Hurricane Ivan, which flooded the Borough of Carnegie severely. At the time, the Borough was told that Ivan was a once in 500-year event. However, due to global warming, we have experienced that this is not the case and that such severe rainstorms are happening on a more frequent basis. As a municipality, we are going to have to get used to living with a wetter and more violent weather environment.

Sever storm weather was experienced in the first week of June (2021) that impacted a number of properties and the next week, even before those property owners could finalize clean-up, another storm came through and impacted the same properties. This was followed by more weather in the month of July, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), measured as the warmest July, and month, which has ever been measured on the planet.

Leading into August, which is typically one of the driest months of the year, the area was impacted further with experiencing harsh rainstorms. Unfortunately, the extreme wet weather is seeming to become part of the normal everyday living at this point. For example, Hurricane Ida, like Hurricane Ivan, came from the Gulf of Mexico and had enough force to travel for two days and reach the Northeast United States. This is an unheard of situation to think that a storm deriving in Mexico would be able to travel across the United States and flood an area like New York City. We must be prepared for this type of weather as individuals and as a municipality. This is not going to go away and is going to get worse before getting any better. Unfortunately, this type of wet weather is going to continue in the future.

Public Safety – Nothing for this evening.

President's Report – Nothing for this evening.

Manager's Report – As an update regarding the \$15,000.00 received from the Snee-Reinhard Grant, as Councilperson Boyd mentioned this will be going towards the 7th Avenue Park. The Borough will be looking to utilize these funds for updated basketball hoops in addition to extra equipment for the playground area of the park.

This award is from the foundation's Paul A. Heasley Fund, which Mr. Heasley was founder of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. The fund was established in 2013 to continue his legacy of philanthropy and commitment to encouraging physical activity with youth in the area.

Another upcoming grant that will be worked on is for the Carnegie Borough Police Department and Administrative Staff in addition to the Carnegie Police Department will be working together to request funds for additional supplies and equipment for the upcoming year. The max request for this upcoming grant will be in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Carnegie Volunteer Fire Dept. & EMS Report - For the month of August 2021, there were 32 fire calls and 117 ambulance calls.

Mayor's Report (Presented by Police Chief Kennedy) - Police Dept. activity for August 2021: Criminal Arrests and Citations – 17; Traffic Citations – 33; Traffic Stops – 59; Parking Tickets – 62; Complaints and Self-Initiated Activity – 769.

Chief Kennedy commented on the current police grant mentioned that is being worked in the month of September. After speaking with the individual who referred this grant opportunity to the municipality, we were told that the last grant received for body worn cameras (BWC) was a very solid and complete submittal. Ninety-seven applications were submitted for the BWC grant and only 17 awards were granted. If it were not for the attention to detail provided in that grant by the Administrative Staff (Deneen Underwood) we would not have been successful with receiving these funds. This was a team effort between the information provided by the police department staff and Ms. Underwood.

Jr. Council Report - Students in grade K-12 will receive Chromebooks again this year. Grades K-2 will keep their Chromebooks at school while the older grades are free to take them home daily. They will not be offering asynchronous learning this year and are directing those who are still fearful of attending school to enroll in the Carlynton Cyber Academy, a program piloted two years ago and now doing very well. Nearly every student is returning this year.

Over forty teachers received new wireless promethean boards this year, which are state-of-the-art. The interactive screens can also be pulled up on the student's Chromebook, so students will be able to get a closer look and participate, with links to the assignment, right on their devices. Additional promethean boards will be purchased later in the year and next year so that every teacher/classroom will have one.

The school board will be forming a committee to determine a comprehensive plan to spend over \$5 million from ESSERs (Elementary and School Emergency Relief) grant money and the American Rescue Plan funds.

Homecoming is Friday, October 8, 2021.

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs has announced the winners of its annual Communications Contest. Carnegie Borough has been awarded first place recognition in the Special Recognition category for webpage and animation portion of our Carnegie Census Be Counted Campaign.

Tuesday, September 14 will be our third session with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and CONNECT for the PA Climate Action Plan Cohort. Pitt student Sam O'Connor has been assigned to Carnegie and will be working on the plan with myself and Deneen.

Four seniors from Pitt's College of Civil & Environmental Engineering have chosen Carnegie's Complete Streets Study for their senior design project.

Thank you to Dominic DeAngelis of Carnegie for generously donating several children's benches for the 7th Avenue Park playground.

World renowned artist Brian Alfred returned to his native Carnegie over Labor Day weekend to paint a mural of jazz legend Richie Cole. An official unveiling celebration is in the works.

General Public Comment

Joanne Letcher – Carnegie Community Development Corporation

Ms. Letcher addressed Council regarding the upcoming 2021 Fall Fest (Saturday, September 25, 2021 – 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Family Events) and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (Evening Event)) to gather thoughts on continuing to move forward with the event. With the COVID-19 case numbers continuing to increase at this point, is there any feedback on proceeding? As the Fall fest is an event that is geared towards family's and children, it may be best to consider a revised schedule of events to maintain appropriate safety precautions. For example, possibly eliminating any areas or activities that may attract a crowd of people that would be in a close proximity to one another. A meeting will be held tomorrow evening (September 14, 2021) to discuss the revised coordination.

Borough Council requested feedback from the Tuesday, September 14, 2021, meeting to review any thoughts, adjustments, or precautions that the group would consider putting into place.

Jeanne Williams - JFCS Career Development Center (Carnegie Resident)

Jeanne Williams thanked Council for all their hard work over the past year and a half and presented an update on the current availability and scheduling for Jewish Family and Community Services

(JFCS). Due to not having the opportunity to attend the Borough Council Meeting for some time, Ms. Williams informed Borough Council that the group was never officially closed and was able to resume meetings with individuals on a virtual basis. Ms. Williams also provided a thank you to the Borough staff for always being available to assist the JFCS with whatever needs they may have.

Dennis Dewey – 1004 Forsythe Road

Mr. Dewey inquired to see if there were any updates regarding the traffic study work being completed along Forsythe Road and Chestnut Street. Police Chief Kennedy replied to Mr. Dewey regarding a recent traffic study that was completed by the PA department of Transportation (PennDOT) since both are state roadways. The report provided the suggestion to consider rumble strips along Forsythe Road to make drivers aware of their speed. Also, there were also recommendations for the Borough as well as PennDOT for the installation of additional signage along this stretch. The municipality will be coordinating with PennDOT to see what the next steps in the process will be moving forward.

Mr. Dewey referred to a roadway in another community that had a large number of signage that made drivers aware to maintain the suggested speed limit. Since the rumble strips are not preferred based on a survey provided to residents along Forsythe, the signage is a consideration that will be reviewed to see what the options will be to lessen the amount of speeding traffic.

Mr. Robert Davidoff – 26 Lincoln Avenue

Mr. Davidoff commented on the information provided by Councilperson D’Loss regarding preparing for the future (ex. Global Warming). Based off those comments, Mr. Davidoff inquired if there has been any consideration or discussion regarding any electrification of services. Mr. Davidoff mentioned this in relation to the infrastructure bill being reviewed.

Mr. Boyd commented that without the municipality having specific details or directions regarding the infrastructure bill, we will have to anticipate review of this information once received to see what opportunities are available to the municipality. This is something that the Administrative Staff has and will continue to be looking out for in the future.

Council Good and Welfare

Councilperson D’Loss – Provided a congratulations to Mayor Riley on the birth of her new baby and wish her the very best.

Councilperson Freshwater – N/A

Councilperson Boyd – N/A

Councilperson Popichak – Councilperson Popichack commented on the new businesses that the Borough of Carnegie has in town and encouraged visiting these new establishments. As Ms. Letcher mentioned, the 2021 Fall Fest will take place on September 25, which is the same date as the Carlynton Band Festival, which will begin at 7:00 PM at Honus Wagner Stadium. Unfortunately, Maggie Forbes was unable to attend the meeting this evening for the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, but there will be a community volunteer awards ceremony tomorrow evening, Tuesday, September

14, 2021, which will be presented by the Carnegie Borough Historical Society. Radical Days have also begun, and the library will be participating by providing activities to the visitors.

Councilperson DiPietro – Provided a congratulations to Mayor Riley on the birth of her new baby and wish her the very best.

Council President Demko – Provided a congratulations to Mayor Riley on the birth of her new baby and wish her the very best. Also, Council President Demko thanked the Police Department, Department of Public Works, and the Volunteer Fire Department for all their effort during and after the last set of storms that hit Carnegie Borough.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Councilperson D’Loss, seconded by Councilperson Boyd.

*The Borough of Carnegie Code of Ordinances is available “on-line” at
www.carnegieborough.com*